AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1   1.   (Currently amended) A method ~~for coordinating a computation upon a plurality of~~

2   ~~data containers deployed at a plurality of nodes, comprising:~~ comprising

3   performing a machine-executed operation involving instructions, wherein the

4   machine-executed operation is at least one of:

5   A) sending said instructions over transmission media;

6   B) receiving said instructions over transmission media;

7   C) storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and

8   D) executing the instructions;

9   wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more

10   processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

11   at each node of [[the]] a plurality of nodes, executing a corresponding

12   process ~~configured for starting a program to perform the~~

13   ~~computation in response to a command received from a database~~

14   ~~system~~; and

15   at [[the]] a database system, receiving a statement specifying an external

16   routine for performing [[the]] a computation and, in response to

17   receiving the statement:

18   concurrently transmitting a plurality of commands for performing the

19   computation to each said corresponding process;

20   receiving results from each said corresponding process; and

21   completing processing of the statement based on the results received from

22   each said corresponding process.

1   2.   (Currently amended) A method ~~for coordinating a computation upon a plurality of~~

2   ~~data containers deployed at a plurality of nodes, comprising:~~ comprising

3   performing a machine-executed operation involving instructions, wherein the

4   machine-executed operation is at least one of:

5   A) sending said instructions over transmission media;

6   B) receiving said instructions over transmission media;

7   C) storing said instructions onto a machine-readable storage medium; and

8   D) executing the instructions;

9   wherein said instructions are instructions which, when executed by one or more

10   processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

11   receiving a statement, at a database system, specifying an external routine

12   for performing the computation; and

13   in response to receiving the statement:

14   transmitting a plurality of commands for performing the

15   computation to a plurality of respective processes

16   ~~configured for starting a plurality of respective programs to~~

17   ~~perform the computation in response to the commands~~;

18   receiving results from each said corresponding process; and

19   completing processing of the statement based on the results

20   received from each said corresponding process.

1   3.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein

2   said instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the

3   one or more processors to perform the step of:

4   determining a cohort of nodes from among [[the]] a plurality of nodes capable of

5   performing the computation,

6   wherein the plurality of the respective processes correspond to the cohort of the

7   nodes.

1   4.   (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the plurality of nodes includes

2   at least one node not included in the cohort of the nodes.

1   5.   (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein said determining is based on a

2   degree of parallelism supported by each of the nodes.

1   6.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein

2   said instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the

3   one or more processors to perform the step of [[access]] accessing a registry

4   specifying an association between the programs and the data containers, wherein

5   said determining is based on the association between the programs and the data

6   containers.

1 7.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein

2   said instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the

3   one or more processors to perform the step of accessing a registry specifying

4   respective attributes for the data containers, wherein said determining is based on

5   matching the respective attributes for the data containers with a parameter in the

6   statement.

1 8.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein

2   said instructions, when executed by the one or more processors, further cause the

3   one or more processors to perform the step of accessing a registry specifying a

4   partitioning function associated with the programs and the data containers,

5   wherein said determining is based on the results from executing the partitioning

6   function associated with the programs and the data containers.

1 9.   (Currently amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 17, wherein at least some

2   of the programs, started by each of the respective processes, execute in parallel.

1 10.   (Cancelled).

1 11.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the steps of concurrently transmitting,

2   receiving results, and completing processing are performed by said database

3   system.

1 12.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of nodes is

2   implemented using a different type of hardware, operation system software, or

3   application software than said database system.

1 13.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the corresponding process, executed on

2   each node of said plurality of nodes, is configured to start a program to perform

3   the computation in response to a command received from said database system.

1   14.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein each said corresponding process instructs

2   a program to perform the computation upon a data container.

1   15.   (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein the steps of transmitting the plurality of

2   commands, receiving results, and completing processing are performed by said

3   database system.

1   16.   (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein each of the plurality of respective

2   processes is executing on one of a plurality of nodes, and wherein at least one of

3   said plurality of nodes is implemented using a different type of hardware,

4   operation system software, or application software than said database system.

1   17.   (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein each of the respective processes is

2   configured to start a program to perform the computation in response to said

3   commands.

1   18.   (New) The method of Claim 2, wherein each said corresponding process instructs

2   a program to perform the computation upon a data container.